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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS:

Masaaki Yamanaka et al.

EXAMINER: Kruer, Kevin R.

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MAIL STOP RCE Commissioner of Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to Decision on the Request for Rehearing mailed March 17, 2006, which set an in-extendable two-month statutory period for response, please consider the following amendments and remarks.

The Amendment to the claims begins on page 2; and

The Remarks begin on page 7.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as enclosed are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date below in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mail Label Number EV 757194719 US addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: My 12, 2006

Valerie J. Senatore